

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
October 14, 2015

Present: Bill Lennon, Shawn Santasiere, Paul Shapiro, Kay Holt, Rich Miller, Susannah Everett, Yilan Jian (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by acting chairperson Shapiro.

The September 9, 2015 minutes were accepted on a motion by Holt/Everett.

The committee reviewed the goals that were discussed at the July 8, 2015 meeting and, by consensus, accepted them.

Walton asked members if they had suggestions on ways to foster environmentally conscious business practices, particularly in downtown Storrs. One suggestion was to highlight those businesses that incorporate sustainability into their business activities. Members expressed interest in learning about the sustainability standards that were established for the Storrs Center development. Walton will invite Cynthia vanZelm, Director of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, to a future meeting.

UConn student, Yilan Jian presented the draft Town Hall/Community Center landscape plan that she and fellow student Boya Yuan worked on this summer. The committee appreciated the way a variety of ecological ideas was incorporated into the design. Walton will arrange a time for Schwab, Jian and Yuan to meet with key town staff to go over the plan.

Santasiere reported that the Bike Mansfield project continues to run workshops on bike maintenance and what is new in cycling. The Community Center is willing to give Bike Mansfield 50% of the profits. Bike Mansfield is taking steps to become a non-profit organization. Dee Goodrich, the new transportation coordinator, will be attending the meeting on a regular basis. Sharrows have been painted in downtown Storrs. Bike Mansfield member, Lon Hultgren, met with the Fairfield planner who wrote their bike master plan. Yilan Jian passed along to Santasiere a bike master plan that was done by one of Schwab's previous students. Cynthia vanZelm is now in charge of the underused bike lockers and showers.

Miller reported that a group of UConn students will be attending the December Paris climate summit. Miller received \$40,000 in scholarships from various UConn entities to take 12 students, 4 faculty members and the sustainability coordinator. He will help select 12 students out of 78 applicants. Miller stated that this could be a crucial summit meeting as the US and China are making overtures toward climate commitments.

Walton reported that Mansfield received an award from Energize CT (Green Bank, Eversource, CT Natural Gas) for its outstanding efforts in supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy. At its October meeting the climate action task force will be compiling a list of items in the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan that most directly tie to climate change.

Members decided to keep the meeting time and day the same for the 2016 calendar.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton